

and the mounting in realgar ( $\mu = 2.5$ ) makes the lines stand out with a distinctness and brilliancy hitherto unknown.

The Royal Microscopical Society have, after careful consideration and after full consultation with microscope makers, drawn up a code of standard sizes for eye-pieces and sub-stage fittings. It is to be hoped that this important and useful step towards universality will be generally adopted.

ALFRED N. DISNEY.

#### THE FORTHCOMING MEETING OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

THE meeting of the British Association, which is to be held in Bradford this year, promises to be an unusually large and important one. Bradford being midway between London and Edinburgh, serves as a common meeting-ground for scientific men from the south of England and from Scotland and Ireland, and it is within easy reach of the Midland and Northern University Colleges. Bradford and Leeds are so close together that for such a purpose as this they are almost one city, and the Bradford Committee, therefore, have the advantage of the Yorkshire College being practically on the spot. The last meeting of the British Association in Bradford was held in 1873, but since that time the city (which, by the way, was then only a town) has practically been re-built, and has grown and developed in a manner resembling the progress of an American rather than that of an English town.

It is, therefore, much better provided now with hotel accommodation and with public buildings suitable for reception and sectional rooms. It is probable that the number of visitors will be far above the average; already some sixty or seventy Fellows of the Royal Society have announced their intention of being present, and professors and eminent lecturers from nearly every University in England, Scotland and Ireland have promised to attend. The Church will be represented by the Bishop of Ripon, the legal profession by the Master of the Rolls and Lord McLaren, and the names of over a score of members of both Houses of Parliament have been sent in.

The meeting will commence on Wednesday, September 5, when the new President, Prof. Sir Wm. Turner, of Edinburgh, will deliver his address in St. George's Hall. On the following evening the Mayor of Bradford will give a *conversazione* in St. George's Hall, at which it is hoped there will be exhibits illustrating the most recent scientific work. On Friday evening the lecture will be delivered in St. George's Hall by Prof. Gotch, F.R.S., on "Animal Electricity." The lecture to artisans on the Saturday will be given by Prof. Silvanus Thompson, F.R.S., and it is expected that there will be an audience in St. George's Hall of 4000 to 5000 working men. On Monday afternoon the Mayor and Corporation will give a garden-party in Lister Park, and in the evening an address will be given by Prof. W. Stroud on "Range-Finders." The Mayor and Corporation will give another large *conversazione* on Tuesday evening, and on the Wednesday evening a concert will take place in St. George's Hall with the Permanent Orchestra and the Festival Choral Society, under the conductorship of Mr. Fredk. Cowan. There will also be one or two eminent vocalists.

During the week there will be a textile exhibition at the Technical College, which will illustrate the various processes of the local industries, and the machinery employed can be seen in motion. There will be a reception at the College on Thursday afternoon, September 6, and the smoking concert in honour of the President will also be given at the Technical College, after Prof. Gotch's lecture on Friday.

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Excursions to places of interest in the neighbourhood will be made on Saturday, the 8th, and on Thursday, the 13th; among the places selected are Bolton Priory, Ripon and Fountains Abbey, Malham, Clapham and Ingleton, the Nidd Valley, Farnley Hall, Haworth, Ilkley, Knaresboro' and Harrogate.

It has become an established custom to publish locally in the towns visited by the British Association a handbook containing a review of the objects of scientific interest and of the social and industrial conditions which prevail in the district. Many of these handbooks have been excellent in their character, and have covered ground altogether unexplored by the ordinary guide-book.

There is every prospect that the handbook published in connection with the Bradford meeting of the Association will be marked by the same width of view and thoroughness of execution, and may prove of permanent value. The work has been taken up with energy by the Publications Committee, of which Mr. Harry Behrens is chairman, and Mr. Mortimer Wheeler is honorary secretary and editor.

The book will be divided mainly into three sections. The earlier will deal with the history of Bradford and the development of the Bradford trade, under the following sub-heads:—(1) Prehistoric archæology, for which Mr. Butler Wood, chief librarian of the Bradford Free Libraries, is responsible; (2) the historical record of Bradford through mediæval times to the middle of the 18th century, which has been undertaken by Mr. Harry Speight; and (3) the social life and development of Bradford from the middle of the 18th century to the present, which is in the hands of Mr. Halliwell Sutcliffe, the novelist. To this section there will be addenda on the local dialect, the local folklore, and the local place-names, including street-names, which will be written by Mrs. Wm. Wright (of Oxford) and Mr. Butler Wood.

The second section of the volume, of which Mr. John Bacchus is sectional editor, will deal comprehensively with the Bradford industries and institutions. The following are sub-heads:—Introductory notice and description of the staples employed in the Bradford trade; description of the processes in combing, spinning, weaving, dyeing and finishing; merchanting in the textile trade; the iron trade and machinery-making; the stone trade and minor industries; the Chamber of Commerce and the Exchange.

The third part of the book, which is under the sectional editorship of Mr. J. E. Wilson, will deal with the scientific material of the locality, the flora, fauna, geology, meteorology, climate and public health. There will be in addition a number of pages devoted to the topography of the district, for which Mr. J. H. Hastings is responsible.

In addition to the handbook, the Publications Committee have in preparation a series of small guides to the various places to which excursions are to be made. These will be issued in the form of a small portfolio, and each guide is being prepared on a scheme similar to that of the handbook, local specialists being called upon to describe the archæology, geology, botany and zoology of the various districts.

In regard to the accommodation of visitors, it is not anticipated that, in spite of the large influx of strangers, there will be any difficulty in finding comfortable quarters for everybody. Bradford is well provided with hotels, the two largest of which, the Midland and the Great Northern, can put up a great number of guests. All the available accommodation at the Royal Hotel has been secured by the local committee in order to provide for the secretaries of the different sections, who, of recent years, have been in the habit of lodging together. A large amount of private hospitality will be provided by the inhabitants of Bradford, and the Hospitality Committee is also drawing

up a list of furnished apartments, which can be had on application. It is important, however, that all persons proposing to attend the meeting should give a long notice of their intention, in order to facilitate the arrangements which the Committee wish to make for their comfort.

RAMSDEN BACCHUS.

### NOTES.

A CONFERENCE of delegates for the International Catalogue of Scientific Papers was held at the Royal Society on Tuesday and Wednesday.

THE second of the two soirées held annually at the Royal Society will take place on Wednesday next, June 20. This is the soirée to which ladies as well as gentlemen are invited.

MR. C. E. BORCHGREVINK will give an account of his Antarctic work at the meeting of the Royal Geographical Society on Monday, June 25, instead of June 18, as previously announced.

THE annual visitation of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, will take place on Tuesday, June 26. The visitation has previously been held on the first Saturday in June, and the change of the customary date is due to the absence of the Astronomer Royal, and other astronomers, for the purpose of observing the solar eclipse. This does not, however, explain the change of day.

ON the occasion of the retirement of Sir Frederick Bramwell from the office of honorary secretary of the Royal Institution, the managers of the Institution unanimously resolved "to place on permanent record an expression of their high appreciation of the admirable way in which he has performed the duties of that office and of his signal services to the Institution generally."

THE death is announced of Dr. Julius Althaus, the distinguished physician and neurologist. He was the author of works on "Diseases of the Nervous System," "Failure of Brain Power," "Diseases of the Spinal Cord," "Medical Electricity," "Influenza" and "The Spas of Europe," and was an authority upon the use of electricity in medical practice.

THE next lecture of the Zoological Society of London will be delivered at the Society's Meeting Room, on Thursday, June 21, at 4.30 p.m., by Prof. E. Ray Lankester, F.R.S. The subject will be the gigantic sloths of Patagonia.

AT the last meeting of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, the following were elected as British Honorary Fellows:—Dr. Edward Caird, Master of Balliol College, Oxford; Dr. David Ferrier, professor of neuro-pathology, King's College, London; Dr. G. F. Fitzgerald, professor of natural and experimental philosophy, Trinity College, Dublin; Dr. Andrew Russell Forsyth, Sadlerian professor of pure mathematics in the University of Cambridge; Dr. Archibald Liversidge, professor of chemistry in the University of Sydney; Dr. T. E. Thorpe, principal of the Government Laboratories, London; and, as Foreign Honorary Fellows:—Dr. Arthur Auwers, secretary, Royal Prussian Academy of Sciences; Prof. Wilhelm His, Leipzig; and Prof. Adolf Ritter von Baeyer, Munich.

THE celebration of the centenary of the Royal College of Surgeons of England will commence on July 25 with a conversazione at the College. On Thursday, July 26, a centenary meeting will be held at the University of London, when an address will be delivered by the president, Sir William Mac-Cormac, and honorary fellowships will be conferred. On Friday, July 27, there will be a conversazione at the Mansion

House. The Committee have issued invitations to foreign and colonial surgeons, and propose to issue invitations to certain persons of distinction residing in Great Britain and Ireland. A short history of the College, with eight illustrations, has been prepared, and will be presented to guests invited to the centenary celebrations.

THE new clinical laboratories of Westminster Hospital were opened by Lord Lister on Tuesday, in the presence of a distinguished company. The laboratories have been added to the hospital to provide for a more scientific and systematic examination of disease than can be carried out satisfactorily in the wards. A few particulars concerning the work of the hospital were given by Sir J. Wolfe-Barry, K.C.B., and are reported in the *Times*. Westminster Hospital was, he said, one of the oldest hospitals in London, having been founded in 1719. 30,000*l.* had been spent in bringing the hospital up to modern requirements, and in 1899 it was decided to add clinical laboratories and improve the isolation wards and nursing accommodation. In time they hoped to institute an electrical laboratory fitted with the apparatus for the Röntgen rays and micro-photography. To meet these expenses 10,000*l.* was wanted.—Dr. Lazarus-Barlow, in giving a detailed account of the laboratories, said the hospital tried to keep in front of all research and modern improvements, scientific and clinical. The laboratories contained all the most recent apparatus for the clinical work of the hospital.—Lord Lister said it was no less a pleasure than an honour to him to take part in that day's ceremony. The beautiful clinical laboratories they had inspected would give the physicians of the hospital an opportunity of bringing to bear on their cases the most advanced knowledge and the most refined methods of investigation. Many a diagnosis which would otherwise be obscure would be rendered clear in those rooms. He need hardly say that the correct diagnosis was directly proportioned to successful treatment. In respect of what Sir J. Wolfe-Barry had said, he himself felt convinced that those who had worked in the laboratories would not only benefit patients in the hospital, but would also, unfaillingly, be able to extend the boundaries of knowledge and promote the now rapid advance of pathological and therapeutic knowledge. The laboratories would also be of service as a powerful means of affording sound practical knowledge to the student.

DURING the early part of the present week a wave of unusual heat has passed over parts of England, accompanied by brilliant sunshine. In the neighbourhood of London, the shade thermometer rose to 89 on Monday, the 11th inst., and thunderstorms occurred over several parts with heavy rainfall, amounting to an inch in the Midland Counties. So high a temperature has not occurred at so early a period of the summer in the neighbourhood of London for more than fifty years. A sharp thunderstorm also visited London about 10 a.m. on Tuesday, and another occurred in the evening; there was also a renewal of severe thunderstorms over a large part of England. The temperature on Wednesday was considerably lower than on the preceding days.

FROM St. Petersburg to Vladivostok by way of the Arctic Ocean is (says the *National Geographic Magazine*) the plan of itinerary of an exploring party that early in June leaves the former city on the steamer *Aurora*. Six men of science and twelve sailors, all experienced in Arctic travel and led by Baron Toll, make up the party. Their special object is the careful exploration of the Arctic regions north of Siberia. After a brief stop at Tromsø, Norway, and at the new Russian port of Catherine Harbour, on the Lapland coast, they will proceed to the Taimur Peninsula, west of the Yenisei River, and there establish their winter headquarters. The neighbouring territory